

REMARKS

The applicant appreciates the examiner's thorough review of the prior art and requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

The office action rejected claims 1-25 as being anticipated under 35 USC 102(b) by the disclosure of US Patent No. 5,710,678 (Leuthold et al., hereinafter "Leuthold").

In summary, Claim 1 defines a motor having, among other things, a movable support member axially supporting its rotor shaft. This movable support member is movable relative to the shaft, which, as noted at lines 24-27 of page 11 of the specification, has the beneficial effect of reducing member wear.

Leuthold shows no such motor. Instead, as shown in Figures 2A and 3A, Leuthold shows a motor assembly having "*a steel ball 160 fixed to the end of [its] shaft 20 and resting against an elastic shield 162 . . .*" (emphasis added and change made in brackets, see column 8, lines 5-7). In other words, in contrast to the explicit requirements of Claim 1, the ball 160 is not movable relative to the shaft 20. This fixed relationship between the steel ball 160 and the shaft 20 is reiterated again at lines 13 and 44-45 of column 8. Accordingly, because the Leuthold motor does not have a support member that is movable *relative to* its shaft, such as that claimed by Claim 1, it may suffer from wear problems discussed in the application. Accordingly, for these and other reasons, Claim 1 is allowable over the prior art of record. In addition, dependent Claims 2-11 also are allowable for the same reasons.

In a manner similar to Claim 1, Claim 20 (written in means plus function format specified by 35 USC 112, paragraph 6) also requires a shaft with a movable means for axially supporting the shaft. The movable means is movable relative to the shaft. Accordingly, Claim 20 is allowable over the art of record for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1. In addition, dependent claims 21-25 also are allowable for the same reasons.

Also in a manner similar to Claim 1, amended Claim 12 also requires a shaft with a movable support member for axially supporting the weight of the shaft. The movable support member is movable relative to the shaft. Accordingly, Claim 12 is allowable

over the art of record for the same reasons as discussed above with regard to Claim 1.
In addition, dependent claims 13-19 also are allowable for the same reasons.

Respectfully submitted,



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